

COAL FEARED

Tells How Organized Fuel Adversely Affects Prices

Washington, Dec. 23.—How the National Coal Association, an organization of coal operators, dealt with the coal market and coped with the fuel shortage during the summer were fields in which the investigating committee spent ten hours.

A. Morrow, a vice president of the association, told how the association started orders for the Interstate Commerce commission to issue transportation matters, paid the expenses of the United States Geological survey in collecting official figures on coal production, kept Jos. P. Wilson, secretary to President Wilson, informed of all steps, and successfully fought proposals to reestablish fuel administration, although the fight was continued to mount.

At Wrentham, the association's president testified to purchasing for the government at the height of the summer 100,000 tons of coal, for which the government paid \$11.60 a ton. Another corporation which was controlled by the association was mining and selling coal for \$3.20 and \$3.37 a ton.

Examination of the two officials of the association was enlightening to the time as senators produced evidence from the organization during an unannounced visit to the offices in Washington late in the summer and Sunday, and questioned the purposes and public interest in the association.

The committee declared that its purpose was to control the coal for the war department and to make a suggestion of Senator Charles McNary, of New York, that it was bad business for the government and increased the cost of coal for the public.

Witness said he received commissions amounting to \$75,000 on the sale of coal to the government. He said that "millions of tons" of coal were being sold for the army by the association during September and October, at prices ranging from \$3.90 to \$4.50 a ton.

The committee said that the bunker coal was sold during the summer at \$11.50 in quantities. It was stated that it "was an example of government inefficiency as I ever saw."

The examination touched the committee on coal shortage (taken from the government agencies, prepared in the interest of consumers). The committee executive committee recommended a resolution which authorized the "drifting of an interstate commerce commission order to the mines inasmuch from damage to the mines to fulfill contracts to the coal."

The committee states that the defeat of General Wrangel is not the victory of Bolshevism but the victory of the Russian people and the whole Russian people.

The manifesto declares that the Russian peasant who is fighting communism in his own hamlet is the only one who is fighting the government with troops to repulse Wrangel as did also the Russian Social democratic party both of whom are determined to have "Russian soil cleared of international and Russian reactionaries."

The manifesto then goes on to say: "The time has now arrived when the question of putting an end to further intervention in Russia is a matter of honor with the nations of Europe as well as the United States."

The call asserts that the quickest way to accomplish the downfall of the present soviet regime is to permit it to have uninterrupted way, as it will then collapse from within as a result of its anti-socialistic and Utopian policies and that the redemption of Russia is only possible after the inevitable and automatic self-defeat of the Lenin and Trotsky government.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Marriage licenses have been issued to the following couples:

Mr. Elbert Turner of Pinewood and Miss Viola Hudson of Tindal.

Mr. Henry B. Strange and Miss Hattie Kennedy of Sumter.

Colored:

Arthur Dennis and Elizabeth Boyd of Rembert.

Jewell Hammond and Mary E. Baker of Tindal.

Frederick J. Rivers and Tissue Williams of Tindal.

John H. Belcher and Bertha Crum of Sumter.

William Brackford of Oswego and Anne Saunders of Rembert.

Harry Dinkins and Ruth Curry of Hattiesville.

Robert Fleming and Della Davis of Sumter.

MITRIAL FOR NICK ARNSTEIN.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The jury in the case of Julius W. "Nicky" Arnstein failed to agree and a mistrial was ordered.

Wrentham, Mass., Dec. 24.—A thief stripped all the toys and decorations of the school children's Christmas tree in the school house here.

EMIGRATION MUST BE RESTRICTED

Says Former Mayor Ole Hansen of Seattle After Visit to Europe

(Manufacturers Record). In one of a series of articles published through the McClure Newspaper Syndicate, Ole Hansen, the former mayor of Seattle, has written on industrial conditions as investigated by him during his recent visit to Great Britain. He states that the government and trades unions of Great Britain are both trying to bring about better conditions, but he believes these efforts must fail because that country, with worn-out resources cannot compete with younger, richer nations, and the only hope of the workers lies in emigration.

He states that no comment is necessary on the wage scale of English workers as outlined in the following, and that he cannot find adjectives to describe the housing conditions in the country:

Ordinary agricultural labor, he says, at the time of his visit in October was receiving from \$8.05 to \$9.10 per week. In the textile trades, which are carried on principally by women and children, the average labor at the mills received about 31 cents an hour, while the highest paid spinners made about \$17.50 a week and weavers about \$14 per week. English teamsters received about \$2 a day; carpenters about 41 cents an hour; building labor about 36 cents per hour; and the best traveling salesmen that he met averaged about \$77 a month—not a week, but \$77 for a month's work!

He points out that living conditions are not 50 per cent of ours and that wages in the main are less than 50 per cent of what is received in this country for practically the same character of work.

After visiting Manchester, the great textile center, he said he left it with a feeling that it would be a great thing for our employers of labor as well as for workers to visit England and see for themselves what the establishment of a government within a government means to the people. He asserts there is no question about it that labor stands on one side and the government and the middle class on the other. Every peace is but an armed truce, and both sides are trying to do the impossible and make a country rich which is normally poor in resources, and establish living conditions for twice as many millions as ought to live there. Because there is not enough work to go around, the workers look upon labor-saving machinery as an enemy to labor.

A worker among the poor of Liverpool for many years told him that few people realize the poverty of the people. He said that "most of the homes in my district are unfit for human habitation, and there are so many people out of work, and out of work means starvation and freezing. I find men sleeping in underground privies covered with their only coat. I have been here 27 years, but this winter will be our worst."

One wonders why these conditions can prevail among 50,000,000 freedom-loving people, especially in England, which is one of the most thoroughly (unionized) working countries in the world, and Mr. Hansen proceeds to answer his question by stating that:

"It is not because of bad laws or because of wrong divisions of the product of the joint endeavor of capital, labor and management. It is not because of bad unions or bad government or bad employers. It is because Britain is poor in natural resources, because goods have to be hauled in and hauled out. It is because the only way trade can be carried on at all is to meet foreign competition, and if the foreign competitor is rich in natural resources, has a great market right near raw materials, the workers then will receive more than where great extra expense is added in hauling, etc."

"England, Scotland and Wales have had an easier time in the past because the great new countries could not make enough to supply their own needs; today we have passed that point in the economic life of our nation where production is greater than home consumption, therefore we are fast becoming very great exporters. Other countries are in the same position, and are competing with established, worn-out countries."

"As time goes on, our country and other countries will produce still greater percentages of excess over their needs, and these goods will be sold where Britain now sells her goods."

The only escape from bad conditions for the people of the British Isles is emigration. The only hope of maintaining industry on its present giant scale here is for the workers to sink back to the pre-war level, and even this can last but a short time."

"England's great skill in shipping commerce, finance and manufacturing cannot long offset economic advantages possessed by newer and richer countries. No man-made law or plan can put coal and steel and oil and cotton into Britain so the soil of other parts of Europe where nature did not perform the task. Therefore, what will the people of Europe do?"

"They will crowd the passport offices by hundreds of thousands and try to escape to our land, and eventually, unless checked, bring about the same scale of anti-life existence that exists throughout Europe. And this is exactly what is going on."

"This great reek of humankind now taking place. There is but one remedy worth talking about, and that is the passage of laws for a real selective immigration and scientific distribution of immigrants in our own land."

"My last article of this series will deal with that law. Some such law must be passed if we are to save our children's birthright."

"Every man who has visited any part of the Old World knows I am right."

FERTILIZER PLANT VS. NITRATE PLANT

Determined Effort to Destroy Great Government Work at Muscle Shoals

Washington, Dec. 22.—The subcommittee of the appropriations committee of the house this afternoon rejected the petition of the board of engineers that \$10,000,000 be appropriated for the completion of the \$100,000,000 project at Muscle Shoals in northern Alabama. Last night the subcommittee tentatively agreed to recommend the appropriation, but during the day Republican leaders interfered with the result that the tentative agreement was hurled into the discard. Unless the house acts favorably despite the action of the subcommittee, it is feared that the nitrate bill in charge of Senator Smith of South Carolina, under the provisions of which the Muscle Shoals plants would be operated for the production of fertilizer, will be seriously jeopardized.

The fertilizer trust has entered actively on the warpath against the nitrate bill with the plea that its enactment would destroy its business. Senators and representatives from all states were inundated today by telegrams from constituents engaged in retelling fertilizer, urging that they vote against the bill. The tide was especially strong from Georgia and South Carolina, the four senators from which states are committed in favor of the bill.

Senator Dial of South Carolina promptly answered his telegram with the explanation that while he objected as a rule to the government engaging in any business, the Muscle Shoals proposition meant such permanent benefits to the agricultural classes of the country that he felt impelled to support necessary legislation in its favor.

The Republicans, in desiring that the stupendous construction be stopped before completion and after a sum as great as \$90,000,000 has been spent, entertain the idea that the government should dispose of the plants to private corporations. Inasmuch, however, as consumers would not profit from fertilizer sold by private corporations, farmers oppose the Republican suggestions. The plight of the project is indicated by absentees being recalled to Washington prior to the conclusion of the holiday period.

At Muscle Shoals, on the Tennessee river the government, during the war, undertook to construct plants for the filtration of atmospheric nitrogen to form the basis of explosives and thus make this country independent, in the event of another war, of the Chilean nitrate beds. It was a part of the general scheme to construct a dam across the shoals capable of generating more water power than can be generated at any other point wholly within the United States. That which put the necessary legislation through congress was the knowledge that in time of peace these plans would be capable of producing the highest grade of fertilizer which could be obtained by farmers at most reasonable charges.

The plants are constructed. The dam is nearing completion. The cost has approximated \$100,000,000. And now the Republicans would abandon the project because its completion will entail additional expenditure of money.

The board of engineers asked for an appropriation of \$10,000,000 with which to complete the dam. The department of agriculture has asked for authority to operate the nitrate plants. The secretary of war has asked for the enactment of legislation forming a corporation (with the government holding all shares of stock) for the manufacture of fertilizer. Experts have presented figures to prove that this corporation after a reasonable time would be self-sustaining. The farmers of the country, whose assistance secured the original legislation, are up in arms.

But the Republicans are adamant. They have considered closing down the plants permanently and stopping the work on the dam, their argument being that by protecting the machinery it could be put to work quickly if ever war developed. But to guard and otherwise protect the property would cost \$25,000 per month or a third sum of \$250,000 per annum.

The Republicans, it is indicated, would lease the property to private enterprise or dispose of it permanently. This plan is keenly resented by the farmers and the consumers generally because of the knowledge that any saving in the production of fertilizer would benefit the private corporation rather than the farmers, and electric current would scarcely be sold cheaper than current is sold in the south by other private corporations. It is computed that the Wilson dam could be made to produce enough current to light the entire south.

"Big business" has constantly been at the throat of Muscle Shoals. It has been charged repeatedly on the floors of the houses of congress that the gunpowder trust, the fertilizer trust, the water power trust and others of the predatory class have ever been on the alert to prevent the development.

On the other hand, a majority in preceding congresses, the Democratic administration and the farmers of the United States, from whatever section they come, have fought for the stupendous development.

Scientists have declared that if the plants on the Tennessee river are operated in good faith, enough high grade food producing fertilizer can be retailed to the southern farmer to make him independent of the world and his country as rich as the basin of the Nile.

Baltimore, Dec. 24.—Cardinal Gibbons spent a restless night but was better today.

Coblenz, Dec. 24.—An old fashion Christmas dinner, with light wines, will be served American soldiers on the Rhine.

CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY FIXED

Allies Have Arrived at Decision Respecting Ability of Germany to Pay

Brussels, Dec. 22 (By the Associated Press).—At the conclusion of the first phase of the second financial conference to discuss German reparations, the delegates apparently have a good idea of Germany's ability to pay and of the assistance the allies must give to Germany to meet their demands. Informal discussions between the delegates will continue until the congress meets again on January 10.

The German delegates left Brussels early this afternoon for Berlin. The allied delegation meets again in the afternoon with the object of bringing about an agreement in their reports to their respective governments. They will leave here today or tomorrow.

The Germans seem satisfied that the allies will act favorably with respect to the assistance required by Germany. They took with them the allied suggestions regarding reforms, such as decreasing the budget, reduction of the number of government employees, increase in indirect taxes, and other measures to put Germany on her feet. There is a feeling among the allied delegates that Germany should be allowed to retain some shipping and hope is expressed in some quarters that German property in the United States may be available for credits. The German requests, however, admittedly exceed the probable allied concessions, but it is felt in well informed circles that satisfactory ground for a settlement is in sight.

All the delegates voiced their confidence that the January session will prepare the case for a speedy decision by the Geneva meeting of representatives of the German and allied governments respecting the possibility of modifying the treaty of Versailles in order to enable Germany to pay the minimum reparations acceptable to the allies.

Italian Victory Celebrated by Insurgents

Fiume, Dec. 22.—The anniversary of the Italian victory on the Piave was celebrated here by a great demonstration, in which the whole population of Fiume, both military and civilian, participated. It began at the "Monument of the Anchor," a marble base, like an altar, supporting the anchor which belonged to the first Italian warship to put into port of Fiume after the war. All Fiume's manifestations center there, as in ancient Rome they centered at the capitol and in modern Rome at the altar on the monument to Victor Emmanuel.

Every man, woman and child in Fiume seemed to be gathered around the monument, which was soon completely covered in flowers, while officers, soldiers, sailors, artillerists climbed up all over it, waving their caps and singing. There are any number of these songs written for the volunteers of d'Annunzio's expedition, such as "Noi siamo i disertori, ma non di Caporetto." ("We are the deserters, but not the ones of Caporetto,") referring to Nitti's speech in the Chamber when the news of the expedition to Fiume reached Rome, on which occasion he branded all d'Annunzio's men as deserters.)

Hundreds of flags were grouped artistically round the monument and about them gathered in a picturesque spectacle the different battalions of the artillerists, wearing their red, blue and black fezzes, the officers with caps tilted at a rakish angle, reminiscent in their appearance of the "musqueteers" of the times of "d'Artagnan."

After several persons had spoken amid constantly growing enthusiasm, a procession was formed, which, with flags and banners at the head, defiled through the main thoroughfares of the city. Arriving at a bridge obstructed by thick barbed wire entanglements, the artillerists delivered a sham attack upon it and on the run, the procession entered Susak, the Slav suburb of Fiume which lies at the other side of the bridge, and rushed through its streets, shouting and singing, waving their flags, caps and weapons.

d'Annunzio's men are all young and self-confident, strong and fit, enthusiastic and patriotic, devoted to their leaders, proud of Fiume, of Italy, of d'Annunzio, ready to fight and, if need be, to die for their cause. The majority are seasoned war veterans, having fought throughout the whole of the world war and among their leaders are some of the most brilliant generals and officers of the Italian army.

EMIGRANTS LEAVING BELGIUM AND POLAND

Antwerp, Belgium, Dec. 1.—More than 13,000 emigrants left Antwerp during the months of July, August and September. The greatest number, 3126 were emigrating to the United States, 2754 went to Canada, the balance being distributed between South American republics, Australia, and Great Britain. Some went to Mexico and quite a large number to the Belgian Congo.

Poland was the nation supplying the largest number of these emigrants with 4,808. Belgium next with 2,223.

WILL WITHDRAW FROM HAITI

Washington, Dec. 24.—A proclamation announcing that the government of the United States believes that the time had arrived when it may inaugurate simple processes of its withdrawal from the responsibilities assumed in connection with dominican affairs, was issued at San Francisco by the direction of President Wilson. It presaged the withdrawal of American control over the affairs of the West Indian republic, beginning four years ago.

COTTON ACREAGE MUST BE REDUCED

North and East Beginning to See Truth

Columbia, Dec. 24.—The following editorial appearing in the New York Commercial under date of November 23, 1920 covers the cotton situation in a splendid manner and should be read with deep interest and reprinted in the leading southern press, says J. S. Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton association. It, he continues, clearly indicates that the north and the east are beginning to realize the seriousness of the situation now facing not only the south but the entire commercial and agricultural life of the nation:

Every element of the community is feeling the effects of deflation in some degree. It would be difficult to say just which is suffering the most. There need no longer be any failure to appreciate the fact that the south has been placed in a most serious situation through the collapse of cotton values. From 40 cents down to 15 cents a pound is far too great a reduction to be logical or natural. Cotton could not expect to escape a certain amount of deflation along with all other commodities, but there is no reason why it should undergo a reduction of 62 1-2 per cent, in price against but 20 to 30 per cent, in other commodities. It means that the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction, and that in the course of time there must be a comeback before the true balance is determined.

During the period of this low valuation those having bills against the south must for their own sake, if not for any less selfish motive, grant all the clemency to their southern debtors that can possibly be extended. Thousands of persons who were perfectly solvent in the spring are now bankrupt so far as the relationship of assets and liabilities is concerned, and would be bankrupt in fact if called upon to pay their debts at this time. So far as these people are concerned, something resembling a moratorium should be put into effect. The cotton people of the south are in the position where, in a great many instances, they are face to face with ruin if outstanding financial obligations are enforced. If, on the other hand, they can be treated with the utmost leniency, there is a strong probability that cotton will recover sufficiently to enable them to come through with a minimum of loss.

As a matter of fact, some of them have already gone into bankruptcy and others are likely to follow. Private reports from the south indicate very clearly that the north has no conception of what the conditions really are below the Mason and Dixon line. These reports now state that the present price of cotton does not even pay the fertilizer bills, and that in some instances the cotton cannot be picked because it is not possible to get enough money to pay the pickers.

If conditions are as bad as these reports state, and there is no reason to doubt their veracity, it will mean that some special action will have to be taken to meet the situation. The pleas that these cotton farmers made in Washington recently met with scant sympathy, because theoretically there seemed to be no reason why the cotton farmer should be singled out for special assistance any more than any of the other agricultural interests. Yet if disaster threatens such a large part of the country territorially, in such an important industry as cotton it is to adopt whatever special measures the interest of the rest of the country may be necessary to minimize its effects.

Some of these private reports emphasize the seriousness of the situation as it has already developed.

Negroes are leaving the fields in large numbers because there is no money to pay them. Young people who thought they at last had an opportunity to realize their ambitions for college careers are being called home from college because the money has given out. In some of the rural communities schools are being closed and children sent home because there is no money to pay the teachers.

The collapse in cotton values is not because they were unduly inflated. On the most conservative basis this crop has cost approximately 30 cents to make. The government estimates the cost much higher, placing it at 28 cents in 1918, and the expectation that it would be one-third higher in 1919, making it 37 cents. The cost of everything the farmer has had to pay for that enters into the cost of making cotton, increased along with the price of cotton itself, so that even at its maximum price it did not leave a very large margin. Its collapse to a 15 cent basis for middling, therefore, leaves him unable to pay his bills contracted earlier in the season.

Based upon the world's requirements, if the world were able to pay for its cotton, the price might even reach 60 cents a pound. Based upon the requirements of that portion of the world which is still able to pay cotton could easily reach 30 cents. Based upon domestic requirements alone, cotton is worth considerably more than its present valuation.

As matters now stand the public has stopped buying cotton goods because it could not afford to pay the high prices asked, and later because it has believed prices were going lower. This is a period of readjustment. It is a transition period, full of inequalities and abnormalities. If the south can manage to hold fast for a little while longer, there will probably come a recovery that will avert much of the threatened disaster.

Spartanburg, Dec. 23.—Judge Thomas P. Sears of the circuit bench this afternoon granted George W. Putnam, held on the charge of killing B. A. Buckheiser, former superintendent of the local street railway lines, bail in the sum of \$1,000.

ENGLAND MEDDLES WITH CABLE LINES

State Department Takes Official Cognizance of Action of British Embassy in Writing Directly to Senator Kellogg to Deny Censorship of Messages

Washington, Dec. 23 (By the Associated Press).—Official cognizance was taken today by the state department of the action of the British embassy in writing directly to Chairman Kellogg of the senate committee investigating cable communications, denying testimony of witnesses that the British authorities imposed a censorship on cable messages coming to the United States from Great Britain.

At the department's request, Senator Kellogg sent to Acting Secretary Davis a copy of the embassy's letter, together with a transcript of the testimony of officials of American cable companies that a censorship was imposed. It was indicated that the embassy would be asked for an explanation of what was considered a breach of diplomatic courtesy.

Officials also indicated their belief that there was some reasonable explanation of the embassy's action in dealing directly with Senator Kellogg instead of through the state department as is the usually accepted procedure.

Neither the embassy's letter nor that written by Senator Kellogg was made public. The former was understood to have been signed by R. Leslie Craigie, first secretary of the embassy, and it was dispatched after a public statement had been made at the embassy for publication "that such a communication would be sent. Enclosed with the embassy's letter was a newspaper dispatch printed in this country quoting a high official of Scotland Yard as denying that there was a censorship on cablegrams originating in the British Isles for the United States. Despite this denial Senator Kellogg, in his letter to Secretary Davis, asked the state department to inquire of the embassy whether a censorship existed as testified to by Newcomb Carlton, president of the Western Union Telegraph and Cable company, and John Goldammer, secretary of the Commercial Cable company.

While this incident was under consideration by department officials, announcement was made that the incident of the call of Dr. Julio Bianchi on Senator Moses had been closed in view of the minister's explanation and apology.

In a communication to the department Minister Bianchi said it had been his intention when he called upon Senator Moses merely to explain the policy of his government in the imprisonment of Dr. Cabrera and to exonerate himself. He said he had not commented upon the policy of the United States nor that of the American legation in Guatemala, adding that he regretted the incident and promised that it was not to be repeated.

COLBY GUEST OF HONOR

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 24.—Secretary Colby was the guest of honor at a luncheon today at Guanabara palace, which was attended by high officials.

NEGROES LYNCH NEGRO PREACHER

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 24.—Coleman Brown, a negro preacher, was lynched yesterday by negroes, according to Sheriff Williams. The preacher was suspected of being implicated in the murder of Della Green, a fourteen-year-old negro girl, who was hanged from a tree with a clothes line.

ARGENTINA PLANS TO GROW COTTON

Washington, Dec. 24.—The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce has been informed that a federation has been organized for raising uniform cotton crop in northern Argentina.

BURGLAR RAIDS HOTEL APARTMENT

New York, Dec. 24.—A burglar entered the apartment occupied by Robert L. Ireland, and wife, at the Murray Hill hotel, and escaped after a fight with Mr. Ireland.

BISHOPVILLE NEWS ITEMS.

Bishopville, Dec. 24.—The farmers have not made much progress with farms since I last wrote on account of the weather, which has also interfered with the street paving. It will take all of January to finish at the present rates. Business is very dull and most of the merchants are as loath to fall on the prices of their goods as the farmer is to take the present prices for his cotton.

Christmas promises to be very dull, there is no money in the hands of the people to invest in Christmas goods. The death of Mrs. I. L. Baker was quite a surprise to most of us, as we did not know she was sick. We extend our sympathies to the bereaved husband.

Our town is crowded with Christmas shoppers, but none seem to have much cash.

Many of our young people have returned from the different schools for the holidays.

I wish you, Mr. Editor, a happy and joyful Christmas.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Trade opportunities with Spain are pointed out by the commerce department report which says that Spain is the only European country able to pay cash for American goods. Cotton composed about one half the entire exports from the United States.